



# CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



## The Office of Youth and Community Restoration

### **Recommendation**

- Establish the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Committee (OYCR) within the Child Welfare Council (CWC).
- Establish the chair(s) of the OYCR Committee and to delegate to the chair(s) of the new committee, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Child Welfare Council, the authority to add members (including as chairs) to ensure that the Committee can carry out the statutory intent of SB 823.

### **Summary**

SB 823, Statutes of 2020, established the OYCR within CHHS on July 1, 2021. The OYCR mission is to promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.

As part of his budget plan for 2019-20, the Governor removed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and made it a separate department under the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Agency. Trailer bill language included a requirement that on or before October 1, 2019, the Secretary of California Health and Human Services convene a committee of the CWC. This effort was suspended due to COVID-19.

### **Statute**

SB 823, Statutes of 2020

Until July 1, 2023, the committee established pursuant to Section 12824 of the Government Code shall be responsible for advising and providing recommendations related to policies, programs, and approaches that improve youth outcomes, reduce youth detention, and reduce recidivism for the population in subdivision (b) of Section 1990.

The committee established pursuant to Section 12824 of the Government

Code shall work directly with the OYCR, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and shall be staffed by the CHHS.

#### Government Code Section 12824

On or before October 1, 2019, the Secretary of CHHS shall convene a committee of the California Child Welfare Council to provide input and recommendations related to the DYCR's policies and programs that promote a commitment to improving youth outcomes, reducing youth detention, and reducing recidivism.

The committee shall be comprised of individuals, including, but not limited to, those with experience in trauma-responsive and therapeutic care of youth, youth justice advocates, youth and family members who have had direct experience with the juvenile justice system, and county probation department representatives. The Department of Youth and Community Restoration shall report as part of the budget process regarding the committee's input and recommendations until 2025.

#### **Office Responsibilities and Authority**

The OYCR has the following responsibility and authority to:

- Develop a report on youth outcomes in the juvenile justice system.
- Identify policy recommendations for improved outcomes and integrated programs and services to best support delinquent youth.
- Identify and disseminate best practices to help inform rehabilitative and restorative youth practices, including education, diversion, re-entry, religious and victims' services.
- Provide technical assistance as requested to develop and expand local youth diversion opportunities.
- Report annually on the work of the OYCR.
- Evaluate the efficacy of local programs being utilized for realigned youth.
- Establish an Ombudsperson to investigate complaints, and publish and provide regular reports, among other duties.
- Other responsibilities related to Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program Review and Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Review as noted in statute.

#### Office Subcommittee within CWC

Section 12824 of the Government Code established a committee of the CWC responsible for advising and providing recommendations related to policies, programs, and approaches that improve youth outcomes, reduce youth detention, and reduce recidivism for the justice involved youth. The Committee will work directly with the OYCR, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and be staffed by CHHS.